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## In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An overhead area access staircase stowage system comprising:

at least one servicing unit comprising;

- at least one stowage unit; and
- a staircase proximate to said at least one stowage unit and having a stowed state and a deployed state, said staircase comprising;
  - a plurality of stair elements; and
  - a state actuating system transitioning said stair elements between said stowed state and said deployed state within a single deck;

said at least one stowage unit and said staircase comprising at least one stowage module accessible in both said deployed state and said stowed state configured for utilization on a single deck.

- 2. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said servicing unit comprises:
  - a first portion comprising;
    - a first stowage unit; and
    - said staircase; and
  - a second portion comprising a second stowage unit.
- 3. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 2 wherein said first portion comprises a platform member corresponding with a staging area.
- 4. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 3 wherein said platform member is a stair element of said staircase.

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5. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 2 wherein said second portion comprises a platform member corresponding with a staging area.

## 6. (Canceled)

- **7.** (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 further comprising at least one divider separating stowage units of said at least one stowage unit.
- 8. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 7 wherein said at least one divider separates said staircase and said at least one stowage unit.
- 9. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 further comprising a plurality of cart bumpers coupled to said at least one divider.
- 10. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 further comprising a plurality of cart bumpers coupled to said at least one stowage unit and guiding stowage of at least one service cart.
- 11. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said at least one stowage module resides between stair elements of said plurality of stair elements.
- 12. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said staircase comprises at least one access panel coupled to said plurality of stair elements and allowing access to said at least one stowage module.
- 13. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said state actuating system comprises:

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- a plurality of rollers;
- a U-shaped stair support member transitioning between states on said plurality of rollers;
- a potential energy device coupled to said U-shaped stair support member and assisting transition of said staircase between said stowed state and said deployed state.
- 14. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 13 wherein said rollers guide transition of and support said staircase.
- 15. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 13 further comprising at least one service cart retainer coupled to said U-shaped stair support member.
- 16. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 further comprising at least one service cart retainer coupled to said staircase.
- 17. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 further comprising at least one release mechanism allowing actuation of said staircase.
- 18. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said state actuating system comprises a deployment handle.
- 19. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said state actuating system comprises a motor.
- 20. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said plurality of stair elements have a plurality of shapes.

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- 21. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said staircase further comprises at least one staging element.
- 22. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said staircase is deployable from at least one of a ceiling and a floor.
- 23. (Previously Presented) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said staircase has a stowed state substantially above a service cart level and a deployed state substantially at said service cart level.
- 24. A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein (Original) said at least one servicing unit is approximately one or more service carts deep.
- 25. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said staircase is approximately one or more service carts deep.
- 26. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein said at least one servicing unit comprises:

at least one platform member; and at least one worktable.

27. A staircase stowage system as in claim 1 wherein (Original) said plurality of stair elements comprises:

parallel step elements; and angled step elements.

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- 28. (Currently Amended) An aircraft comprising: a galley comprising;
  - at least one stowage unit; and
- a staircase proximate to said at least one stowage unit and having a stowed state and a deployed state, said staircase comprising;

## a stair support member;

- a plurality of stair elements <u>vertically fixed in position</u> relative to said stair support member; and
- a state actuating system transitioning said stair support member and said stair elements between said stowed state and said deployed state;
- said staircase vertically and non-rotatably actuated between states.
- 29. (Previously Presented) An aircraft as in claim 28 wherein said at least one stowage unit comprises at least one service cart stowage unit.
- 30. (Currently Amended) An overhead area access staircase stowage system comprising:
  - at least one service cart stowage unit;
  - at least one stowage module; and
- a staircase proximate to said at least one service cart stowage unit, coupled to said at least one stowage module, and having a stowed state and a deployed state, said staircase comprising;
  - a plurality of stair elements; [[and]]
  - a state actuating system transitioning said stair elements between said stowed state and said deployed state; and
  - a staging area platform corresponding to at least one said stair elements and vertically aligned with a service cart stowage unit platform when deployed wherein at least one of said stair elements corresponds with a staging area platform.

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- 31. (Original) A staircase stowage system as in claim 30 wherein said staircase is deployable within said at least one stowage unit and comprises said at least one stowage module.
- 32. (Original) A method of accessing an overhead area and stowing objects within a stowage unit of an aircraft comprising:

accessing a staircase within a stowage unit;

releasing said staircase;

deploying said staircase within said stowage unit comprising;

vertically and non-rotatably translating releasing a plurality of stair elements that are vertically fixed in position relative to each other; and

supporting said plurality of stair elements; ascending said plurality of stair elements; interacting with the overhead area; and stowing said staircase.

- 33. (Original) A method as in claim 32 further comprising stowing objects within said staircase.
- 34. (Original) A method as in claim 32 further comprising retaining service carts within said stowage unit.
- 35. (Original) A method as in claim 34 wherein retaining service carts comprises the rotation of retainers coupled to at least one of a staircase base and a staging area platform member.
- 36. (Original) A method as in claim 32 further comprising stowing at least one service cart below at least one of a worktable and a platform member before deploying said staircase.

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37. (Currently Amended) An aircraft comprising: an aircraft structure having at least one overhead area; and a staircase system comprising;

at least one stowage module that is accessible when stowed; and a staircase having a stowed state and a deployed state within a stowage unit, said staircase comprising;

a plurality of stair elements; and

a state actuating system transitioning said stair elements between said stowed state and said deployed state;

said staircase when in said deployed state providing access to the overhead area.

- 38. (Original) An aircraft as in claim 37 wherein said at least one stowage module reside between stair elements of said plurality of stair elements.
- 39. (Original) An aircraft as in claim 37 wherein said staircase system further comprises a service cart stowage unit.
- 40. (Original) A system as in claim 37 wherein said overhead area has a multiple service cart depth.